(d) die odier proposal under Government's consideration to check these malpractices and also to undertake a comprehensive review of the Act in view of die fast changing technologies in the medical field?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) It has been decided to set up a special cell headed by an Assistant Commissioner level officer to assist the Central Supervisory Board in monitoring the reports received from State Governments and Appropriate Authorities appointed at State/district/sub-district levels. No penal powers will be vested with the Special Cell, as the powers to impose penalty on the basis of complaints are vested in die Courts as per the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994.

(c) In spite of the existence of the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, hardly any case for prosecution of the persons involved in this evil practice could succeed so far for want of appropriate evidence against the parties involved in the crime, because the crime is committed with the active connivance and consent of all the parties secretly.

(d) In order to strengthen the implementation mechanism for more effective implementation of the provisions of the Act and to suggest amendments in the Act to cover new emerging technologies, the Central Supervisory Board under •he Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 has constituted two Sub-Committees *viz.* (i) Sub-Committee on Implementation Strategy and Social awareness; and (ii) Technical Sub-Committee and to suggest amendments of the statutes keeping in view the changing technologies in the medical field.

News-Item "Indian population in US posts record growth"

3717. SHRI ABANI ROY: Wfll the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased fo state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Indian population in US posts record growth", which appeared in the Times of India, dated 16* May, 2001;

(b) if so, whether the US has recorded a phenomenal growth of Indian population in Asia.

(c) if so, whether the population in India is growing fastly in comparison to other Asian countries in the World; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to check such growing trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per data released by the United States Census based on 2000 Census, the Indian American population has grown to 1.67 million in 2000 or 0.6per cent of the total US population from 0.8 million or 0.3 per cent of total US population in 1990. The overall growth rate of Indian Americans during 1990—2000 was about 106 per cent.

(c) and (d) As per UNFPA Publication "The State of World Population 2000," The annual rate of growth of population in India during 1995—2000 was 1.6 per cent, which is less than that of countries like, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Saudi Arabia whereas it was higher than that of countries like, China, Japan, Indonesia and Sri Lanka. The Statement showing growth rate of various Asian countries is Annexed *(see* below)

The Government of India has taken the following steps to further decline the population growth rate :

(i) An integrated and comprehensive programme of Reproductive and Child Health,which includes Maternal Health, Child Health and Contraception issues.

(ii) Propagation of family planning methods, which includes sterilization both for male and female, spacing methods namely, IUD insertions, oral pills and condoms.

(iii) Fulfilment of unmet needs of contraceptives through provision of integrated service delivery at village level.

(iv) Information, Education and communication Programme to create awareness about the benefits of small family.

(v) Provision of additional inputs in weaker States/districts.

Statement

The Growth Rate of Selected Asian Countries

Name of the selected Asian country	Average Population Growth Rate in % (1995—2000)
India	1.6
Yamen	3.7
Saudi Arabia	3.4
Oman	*33*
Afghanistan	2.9
Iraq	18
Pakistan	28
Nepal	2,4
Philippines	2.1
Bangladesh	1.7
Indonesia	1.4
Sri Lanka	1.0
Thailand	0.9
China	0.9
Japan	02

Source. The State of World Population 2000 (United Nations Publication)

Review of fee structure in medical colleges

3718. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several State Governments have urged the Government to take a comprehensive review of fee structure in private and Government funded medical colleges in the country;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard;

(c) whether any control is exercised by Government on private medical colleges in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) (a) and (b) No Sir. However, the fee structure in private medical colleges, both for merit and payment seats was reviewed recently